

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 14, 1998  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 16, 1998  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 8, 1998  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 5, 1998  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 2, 1997  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 28, 1997

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1997–98 REGULAR SESSION

## **ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 969**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Cardenas**

February 27, 1997

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An act to amend Sections 6710 ~~and 6732~~, 6732, *and* 6787 of, and to add Sections 6706.3 ~~and 6732.3~~, 6732.3, *and* 6732.4 to, the Business and Professions Code, relating to professional engineers.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 969, as amended, Cardenas. Professional engineers.

(1) The Professional Engineers Act provides for the registration of persons practicing engineering in this state, either in a public or private capacity, with the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, in accordance with certain requirements.

This bill would instead, provide for the licensure of persons practicing engineering in the state. It would change the name

of the board *as of January 1, 2000*, to the “State Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.”

(2) The act also prohibits any person other than a professional engineer from using in any manner, including in connection with the stamping or sealing of plans, specifications, plats, reports, or other documents, the title “professional engineer” and certain other similar titles, including the branch titles “corrosion engineer,” “quality engineer,” and “safety engineer.”

This bill would, with respect to that prohibition, add the title “licensed engineer” to the list of proscribed titles, and would delete the branch titles specified above, but would provide that persons registered in those branches *or completing the examination process for those branches* prior to January 1, 1999, may continue to use those branch titles. *The bill would prohibit the board from administering any examinations for these branch titles on or after that date.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~ yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 6706.3 is added to the Business  
2 and Professions Code, to read:

3 6706.3. Any reference in any law or regulation to a  
4 registered engineer, or to a registered civil, electrical, or  
5 mechanical engineer, is deemed to refer to a licensed  
6 engineer, or to a licensed civil, electrical, or mechanical  
7 engineer, as the case may be.

8 SEC. 2. Section 6710 of the Business and Professions  
9 Code is amended to read:

10 6710. (a) There is in the Department of Consumer  
11 Affairs a State Board for Professional Engineers and Land  
12 Surveyors, which consists of 13 members.

13 (b) Any reference in any law or regulation to the State  
14 Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and  
15 Land Surveyors is deemed to refer to the State Board for  
16 Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

17 (c) This section shall become inoperative on July 1,  
18 2000, and, as of January 1, 2001, is repealed, unless a later

1 enacted statute, that becomes effective on or before  
2 January 1, 2001, deletes or extends the dates on which it  
3 becomes inoperative and is repealed. The repeal of this  
4 section renders the board subject to the review required  
5 by Division 1.2 (commencing with Section 473).  
6 However, the review of the board shall be limited to only  
7 those unresolved issues identified by the Joint Legislative  
8 Sunset Review Committee.

9 SEC. 3. Section 6732 of the Business and Professions  
10 Code is amended to read:

11 6732. It is unlawful for anyone other than a  
12 professional engineer licensed under this chapter to  
13 stamp or seal any plans, specifications, plats, reports, or  
14 other documents with the seal or stamp of a professional  
15 engineer, or in any manner, use the title “professional  
16 engineer,” “licensed engineer,” “registered engineer,”  
17 or “consulting engineer,” or any of the following branch  
18 titles: “agricultural engineer,” “chemical engineer,”  
19 “civil engineer,” “control system engineer,” “electrical  
20 engineer,” “fire protection engineer,” “industrial  
21 engineer,” “manufacturing engineer,” “mechanical  
22 engineer,” “metallurgical engineer,” “nuclear  
23 engineer,” “petroleum engineer,” or “traffic engineer,”  
24 or any combination of these words and phrases or  
25 abbreviations thereof unless licensed under this chapter.

26 SEC. 4. Section 6732.3 is added to the Business and  
27 Professions Code, to read:

28 ~~6732.3. A professional engineer who was registered as~~  
29 ~~a corrosion engineer, quality engineer, or safety engineer~~  
30 ~~prior to January 1, 1999, may continue to use the branch~~  
31 ~~title of the branch in which the professional engineer is~~  
32 ~~legally registered.~~

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34 6732.3. (a) Any person who has received from the  
35 board a registration or license in corrosion, quality, or  
36 safety engineering, and who holds a valid registration or  
37 license to practice professional engineering under this  
38 chapter, may continue to use the branch title of the  
39 branch in which the professional engineer is legally  
40 registered. A person holding a registration in corrosion,

1 *quality, or safety engineering is subject to the registration*  
2 *or license renewal provisions of this chapter.*

3 (b) *The professional engineer also may continue to use*  
4 *the title of “professional engineer,” “licensed engineer,”*  
5 *“registered engineer,” or “consulting engineer.”*

6 *SEC. 5. Section 6732.4 is added to the Business and*  
7 *Professions Code, to read:*

8 *6732.4. Notwithstanding any other provision of law,*  
9 *any person who has applied for registration as a corrosion,*  
10 *quality, or safety engineer, and who has completed the*  
11 *written examination in one or more of these branch titles*  
12 *prior to January 1, 1999, shall be issued a registration in the*  
13 *branch title for which the applicant was examined,*  
14 *provided that he or she has met all other qualifications for*  
15 *registration. The board shall not administer any*  
16 *examination for registration as a corrosion, quality, or*  
17 *safety engineer on or after January 1, 1999.*

18 *SEC. 6. Section 6787 of the Business and Professions*  
19 *Code is amended to read:*

20 *6787. Every person is guilty of a misdemeanor and for*  
21 *each offense of which he or she is convicted is punishable*  
22 *by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000)*  
23 *or by imprisonment not to exceed three months, or by*  
24 *both that fine and imprisonment:*

25 (a) *Who, unless he or she is exempt from registration*  
26 *under this chapter, practices or offers to practice civil,*  
27 *electrical, or mechanical engineering in this state*  
28 *according to the provisions of this chapter without legal*  
29 *authorization.*

30 (b) *Who presents or attempts to file as his or her own*  
31 *the certificate of registration of another.*

32 (c) *Who gives false evidence of any kind to the board,*  
33 *or to any member thereof, in obtaining a certificate of*  
34 *registration.*

35 (d) *Who impersonates or uses the seal of any other*  
36 *practitioner.*

37 (e) *Who uses an expired or revoked certificate of*  
38 *registration.*

39 (f) *Who shall represent himself or herself as, or use the*  
40 *title of, registered civil, electrical, or mechanical*

1 engineer, or any other title whereby such person could be  
2 considered as practicing or offering to practice civil,  
3 electrical, or mechanical engineering in any of its  
4 branches, unless he or she is correspondingly qualified by  
5 registration as a civil, electrical, or mechanical engineer  
6 under this chapter.

7 (g) Who, unless appropriately registered, manages, or  
8 conducts as manager, proprietor, or agent, any place of  
9 business from which civil, electrical, or mechanical  
10 engineering work is solicited, performed, or practiced.

11 (h) Who uses the title, or any combination of ~~such that~~  
12 title, of “professional engineer,” “*licensed engineer*,”  
13 “registered engineer,” or the branch titles specified in  
14 Section 6732, or the authority titles specified in Section  
15 6763, or “engineer-in-training,” or who makes use of any  
16 abbreviation of ~~such that~~ title which might lead to the  
17 belief that he or she is a registered engineer, without  
18 being registered as required by this ~~aet chapter~~.

19 (i) Who uses the title “consulting engineer” without  
20 being registered as required by this ~~aet chapter~~ or  
21 without being authorized to use ~~such that~~ title pursuant  
22 to legislation enacted at the 1963, 1965 or 1968 Regular  
23 Session.

24 (j) Who violates any provision of this chapter.

25 *SEC. 7. Section 2 shall become operative on January*  
26 *1, 2000.*